



Implementation Guidance Model POCD Resilience Chapter

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ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Description
AMM	Average Monthly Maximum
CCVI	Climate Change Vulnerability Index
CGS	Connecticut General Statutes
CIRCA	Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation
DEEP	Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
DFIRM	Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map

Acronym	Description
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
HMP	Hazard Mitigation Plan
IBTrACS	International Best Track Archive for Climate Stewardship
MHW	Mean High Water
MSC	Map Service Center
NFHL	National Flood Hazard Layer
NHC	National Hurricane Center
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OPM	Connecticut Office of Policy and Management
PA 25-33	Connecticut Public Act No. 25-33, <i>An Act Concerning the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Municipal and State Planning, and the Use of Neonicotinoids and Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides</i>
POCD	Plan of Conservation and Development
RID	Resiliency Improvement District
SLOSH	Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes
SLR	Sea Level Rise
WestCOG	Western Connecticut Council of Governments
WUI	Wildland-Urban Interface

Introduction

The adoption of Connecticut Public Act No. 25-33 in 2025 expanded the requirements for the content municipalities must include in any Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) adopted on or after October 1, 2027. Connecticut Public Act No. 25-33 (PA 25-33) titled *An Act Concerning the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Municipal and State Planning, and the Use of Neonicotinoids and Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides* is a broad law that addresses climate resilience and environmental management practices across many sectors, including land use and development planning.

In response, WestCOG published resources to help municipalities fulfill the new PA 25-33 POCD requirements, more deeply integrate climate resilience strategies into their POCDs, and expedite their POCD development. These resources are optional and can be used in whole or in part to augment municipal planning. This Implementation Guidance document provides instructions for accessing and using those resources, all of which are available on WestCOG's website: <https://westcog.org/>

There are many valuable reasons for municipalities to integrate resilience planning into their POCDs. A critical reason for incorporating resilience into POCDs is that it helps communities embed resilience into land use, development decisions, and natural resources management, with the goal of protecting residents, infrastructure, and the environment against the impacts of natural hazard events. By doing so, resilience strategies reduce damage to homes, businesses, critical infrastructure, and the environment – thereby reducing immediate and long-term recovery costs. By limiting repetitive losses and disruption, the community can maintain more consistent property values and economic activity. Communities that plan for resilience can also often qualify for better insurance ratings, stronger credit profiles, and more competitive scoring for state and federal funding opportunities. Using the best available hazard and climate data creates an evidence-based, documented foundation for communities' legal and investment decisions. This supports consistency in decision-making and helps to maintain the community's long-term vision. Overall, data-backed, thoughtful POCDs can improve community outcomes while enabling the municipality to remain in good standing by adhering to planning requirements.

WestCOG has developed a Climate Resilience Model Chapter, a customizable template aligned with the requirements of PA 25-33. Municipalities can populate this template with their updated information or use it to check that their own approach meets the POCD resilience requirements in PA 25-33. The examples of natural hazards and climate change impacts, as well as the resilience goals and strategies in the Model Chapter, are derived from the WestCOG Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan (specifically the municipal project lists) and a selection of member municipalities' Resilience Plans. WestCOG has also compiled hazard exposure maps for each member municipality (see [Available Resources](#)). This Guidance accompanies the POCD Model Chapter and hazard maps to provide instruction for accessing and using these resources.

This Implementation Guidance (and the accompanying Model Chapter) is not comprehensive of POCD content requirements and does not guarantee POCD approval. Approval of the POCD is also the decision of the COG, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP), and Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM). These resources are a starting point for facilitating and expediting municipalities' own planning processes.

Municipal POCD Resilience Resources

In June 2026, WestCOG published data and planning documents to assist municipalities in advancing their resilience planning by fulfilling the new natural hazard and climate change requirements of PA 25-33.

Available Resources

WestCOG has made available the following:

- **Implementation Guidance** (this document): Instructions and considerations for using the Climate Resilience Model Chapter.
- **Climate Resilience Model Chapter**: A template with natural hazard and climate resilience content and placeholders for specific municipal information that can be added to local POCDs to help meet the requirements of PA 25-33.
- **Regional Climate and Stormwater Assessment**: A regional-scale assessment of climate and stormwater trends and hazard conditions across the 18 WestCOG municipalities.
- **Locally Variable Hazard Differentiation**: A community-by-community analysis of climate hazard risks across WestCOG's 18 municipalities, organized into five risk-based community categories for seven hazard types. These same categories are used in the Climate Resilience Model Chapter to organize example natural hazard impacts and planning considerations for each community type.
- **Technical Data Interpretation and Integration Memo**: A guidance document that summarizes the datasets used to develop the Regional Climate and Stormwater Assessment and Locally Variable Hazard Differentiation, sourced from agencies including NOAA, FEMA, CIRCA, UConn, CLEAR, and USDA. The memo also explains how to interpret and appropriately apply data within a municipal planning content.
- **Planning and Zoning Presentation**: A template PowerPoint presentation appropriate for Planning and Zoning Commission meetings that concisely describes PA 25-33 POCD resilience requirements and has placeholders for sharing information about your municipality's POCD update.
- **Climate Implementation Training Webinar**: A virtual event hosted on June 22, 2026 to provide an overview of PA 25-33 and the related WestCOG resources. A recording is available on [WestCOG's YouTube channel](#).
- **Hazard Data**: Hazard layers are available in a geospatial database, including floodplains, sea level rise and storm surge, heat vulnerability, tornado tracks, tropical cyclone tracks, and more. Additionally, context layers such as town boundaries and land cover are available.
- **Hazard Maps**: Maps have been created for each member municipality for input into placeholders within the model chapter to show floodplains, heat vulnerability, wildfire vulnerability, and hurricane storm surge extents (if applicable) within the municipality.

These resources can be accessed and used in any order. However, WestCOG recommends beginning by reviewing the Regional Climate and Stormwater Hazard Assessment, then the Locally Variable Hazard Differentiation, followed by the Climate Implementation Training Webinar and/or reviewing the [POCD Resilience Requirements](#) section of this document. Once you are familiar with the PA 25-33 resilience requirements, compile and analyze available natural hazard data to determine the climate-related challenges your community should consider in its POCD update.

How to Access

Municipalities can access WestCOG's PA 25-33 resilience resources on the POCD Climate Provisions section of WestCOG's website: <https://westcog.org/pocd-climate-provisions/>

WestCOG recommends downloading a copy of the Resilience Model Chapter, saving it with your community's name, and reviewing/editing using that model.

Data can be downloaded from the provided geospatial database available on WestCOG's website. While most hazard and context data have been made readily available in the database, web map viewers for select data layers are available for use online and are described below. Additionally, some data is not geospatial; how to access and utilize that data is described in the Technical Data Interpretation Memo.

References and Assistance

Leveraging WestCOG's data and planning starts with accessing the following:

- Municipal POCD Resilience Resources: <https://westcog.org/pocd-climate-provisions/>
- Climate Implementation Training Webinar Recording: <https://youtu.be/RIP2s7uYPIs?si=crgN4wVHdJ0tCfAx>
- WestCOG POCD: <https://westcog.org/pocd/>
- WestCOG Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP): <https://westcog.org/hmp/>
- WestCOG Data Hub: <https://data-westcog.hub.arcgis.com/>

For additional assistance or to share your feedback on this resource, please contact WestCOG: <https://westcog.org/contact-us/>

POCD Resilience Requirements

PA 25-33 updates the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Section 8-23 and establishes new requirements ("shall") and considerations ("may") for hazard and climate resilience content in POCDs. In summary, any POCD adopted on or after October 1, 2027, must:

- Use the most recent sea level rise, hazard, and climate projections from state and federal authorities
- Include a multi-hazard Vulnerability Assessment
- Incorporate geospatial data and maps
- Identify resilient land use and development strategies
- Explain how the climate resilience strategies are consistent with (or differ from) the municipality's other major plan documents

The establishment of new requirements for POCD resilience content is just one component of PA 25-33 and one aspect of the overall content required for POCDs under the Connecticut General Statutes. This Implementation Guidance (and the accompanying Model Chapter) is not comprehensive of POCD content requirements and does not guarantee POCD approval.

Table 1. Resilience requirements for POCDs adopted on or after October 1, 2027, from Conn. Pub. Act No. 25-33

Subsection	Requirement Summary	Model Chapter Section
§ 8-23 (e) (2) (C)	Shall...be designed to promote, with the greatest efficiency and economy, the coordinated development of the municipality and the general welfare and prosperity of its people	Resilience Vision; Resilience Strategies/Actions
§ 8-23 (d) (11)	Shall consider...the most recent sea level change scenario updated pursuant to subsection (b) of section 25-68o	Climate Hazards
§ 8-23 (d) (13)	Shall consider...the most recent hazard and climate projections established by federal and state authorities	Climate Hazards
§ 8-23 (e) (2) (D) (i)	Include a climate change vulnerability assessment...which shall consist of an assessment of existing and anticipated threats to and vulnerabilities of the municipality that are associated with natural disasters, hazards, and climate change, including, but not limited to increased temperatures, drought, flooding, wildfire, storm damage and sea level rise, saltwater intrusion and the impacts such disasters and hazards may have on individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, economic development, public infrastructure and facilities, public health, safety, and welfare	Hazard Vulnerability/Planning Considerations
§ 8-23 (e) (2) (D) (ii)	Identify goals, policies, and techniques to avoid or reduce such threats, vulnerabilities, and impacts	Resilience Strategies/Actions
§ 8-23 (e) (2) (D) (iii)	Include a statement describing any consistencies and inconsistencies identified between such assessment and any existing or proposed municipal natural hazard mitigation plan, floodplain management plan, comprehensive emergency operations plan, emergency response plan, post-disaster recovery plan, long-range transportation plan or capital improvement plan in the municipality, and identify and recommend, where necessary, the integration of data from such assessment into any such plans and any actions necessary to achieve consistency and coordination between such assessment and any such plans	Resilience Vision, Resilience Strategies/Actions
§ 8-23 (e) (2) (E)	Recommend the most desirable use of land within the municipality for residential, recreational, commercial, industrial, conservation, agricultural, and other purposes, and include a map showing such proposed land uses, which considers the threats, vulnerabilities, and impacts identified in the climate change vulnerability assessment	Resilience Strategies/Actions

Subsection	Requirement Summary	Model Chapter Section
§ 8-23 (e) (2) (G)	Note any inconsistencies with the following growth management principles (summarized): commercial center and mixed-use redevelopment/revitalization, expansion of housing choice and opportunity, transit-oriented development with reduction in vehicle mileage, natural, historical, and agricultural resources conservation, protection of critical environmental assets, and planning integration across government	Resilience Vision; Resilience Strategies/Actions
§ 8-23 (e) (2) (K)	Identify infrastructure, including, but not limited to, facilities, public utilities, and roadways, that is critical for evacuation purposes and sustaining quality of life during a natural disaster, and that shall be maintained at all times in an operational state	Hazard Vulnerability/Planning Considerations
§ 8-23 (e) (2) (L)	Identify strategies and design standards that may be implemented to avoid or reduce risks associated with natural disasters, hazards, and climate change	Resilience Strategies/Actions
§ 8-23 (e) (2) (M)	Include geospatial data utilized in preparing such a plan, or that is necessary to convey information in such a plan	Overview, Climate Hazards, Hazard Vulnerability/Planning Considerations, Resilience Strategies/Actions
§ 8-23 (e) (2) (M) (iv)	May...identify one or more areas that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change for the purpose of prioritizing funding for infrastructure needs and resiliency planning	Resilience Strategies/Actions
§ 8-23 (e) (2) (M) (iv)	The commission or any special committee may utilize information and data from any natural hazard mitigation plan, floodplain management plan, comprehensive emergency operations plan, emergency response plan, post-disaster recovery plan, long-range transportation plan, climate vulnerability assessment or resilience plan in the preparation of such plan of conservation and development, including a document coordinated by the applicable regional council of governments, provided such information and data shall not be incorporated by reference, but summarized and applied in such plan to the specific policies, goals and standards of the subject municipality	Resilience Strategies/Actions
§ 8-23 (e) (3) (A)	For any municipality that is contiguous to Long Island Sound, such plan shall be (A) consistent with the municipal coastal program requirements of sections 22a-101 to 22a-104	Climate Hazards, Resilience Strategies/Actions*
		<i>*Full compliance requires further content than is</i>

Subsection	Requirement Summary	Model Chapter Section
		<i>included in the Model Chapter</i>
§ 8-23 (e) (3) (f) (8)	Such a plan may show the commission's and any special committee's recommendation for...a land use program that will promote the reduction and avoidance of risks associated with natural disasters, hazards, and climate change, including, but not limited to, increased temperatures, drought, flooding, wildfire, hurricanes, saltwater intrusion, and sea level rise	Resilience Strategies/Actions
§ 8-23 (e) (3) (f) (9)	Such a plan may show the commission's and any special committee's recommendation for...a program for the transfer of development rights, which establishes criteria for sending and receiving sites and technical details for the program	Resilience Strategies/Actions
§ 8-23 (e) (3) (f) (10)	Such a plan may show the commission's and any special committee's recommendation for...identification of resiliency improvement districts	Resiliency Strategies/Actions

Instructions

Overview

This document outlines the steps a community can take to update the Model POCD chapter for their municipality with the hazard data provided. Before following the steps below, locate your community risk profile in the Locally Variable Hazard Differentiation memo available on WestCOG's website [here](#).

The Locally Variable Hazard Differentiation memo categorizes each WestCOG municipality based on a selection of 17 hazards that vary across the WestCOG area. Tailored to each municipality, the community profile will guide local decision-making and inform choice-based sections throughout the POCD chapter.

Instructions for each section are in *[italicized, bracketed font]* within the Model POCD chapter. Follow the guidance below to use and remove these instructions as you populate the chapter for your municipality.

Body Text

- Change **[bold bracketed text]** to the municipality of interest or information requested.
- Remove *[italicized bracketed text]* instructions from within body text as necessary.

Figures and Maps

- Change **[bold bracketed text]** to the municipality of interest.
- Remove *[italicized bracketed text]* instructions from within figure captions as necessary.
- Use the Technical Data Interpretation Memo and associated data package to create updated figures.

Model Chapter Sections

Climate Resilience

Specific Requirements: § 8-23 (e) (2) (M)

Section Considerations: This introductory section begins with a concise statement describing the need for data-informed land-use planning. It functions as an introduction for the rest of the resilience chapter. Communities can use this statement or customize it, for example, by describing how resilience is incorporated into the POCD planning process.

Instructions:

1. Review and confirm that the template text is applicable to your municipality and aligned with your other POCD chapters. Update as needed.
2. Update Figure 1 and caption with a map of the boundaries of the municipality.
 - a. Municipality boundary data can be found in the provided geospatial database available on [WestCOG's website](#).

Climate Hazards

Specific Requirements: § 8-23 (d) (11); § 8-23 (d) (13); § 8-23 (e) (2) (M); § 8-23 (e) (3) (A)

Section Considerations: This section documents the natural hazards that are present in your community today and are projected to be there under future climate conditions. The template begins with a general description of climate change trends in the WestCOG region, then provides a more specific summary of climate change hazards for each area type.

- **Hazard Types:** At minimum, address your community's current and future exposure to the following hazards specified by PA 25-33: increased temperatures, drought, flooding, wildfire, storm damage, sea level rise, and saltwater intrusion, as applicable.
- **Saltwater Intrusion:** The process occurs in coastal areas when saltwater infiltrates freshwater aquifers. Saltwater can contaminate groundwater sources (i.e., make the freshwater salty) to the point where the water can no longer be used for agriculture or for human consumption.

Instructions:

1. Review and confirm that the introductory paragraph is applicable to your municipality. Update as needed.
2. From the bulleted list, select a localized climate change description, review the statement to confirm accuracy, add relevant local hazard exposure information, and delete the irrelevant information for the specific municipality.
 - a. Example: for Greenwich, review and update the Coastal-Moderate template text and delete the other categories.
3. Complete the hazard applicability matrix based on the municipality's Hazard Matrix from the Locally Variable Hazard Differentiation memo.
4. Provide relevant hazard maps for the selected municipality. Maps for floodplains, Climate Change Vulnerability Index (CCVI) heat vulnerability, Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), and hurricane storm-surge extents (for coastal communities) are available for direct insertion into the model chapter on WestCOG's website.

- a. At minimum, provide a map of the floodplain.
 - i. More information on utilizing this data can be found in the Technical Data Interpretation Memo. Floodplain data will be available in the provided geospatial database. To access online, floodplain data can be found using FEMA's [Map Service Center \(MSC\)](#) to search the National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) for your community.
- b. Additional mapping can include CIRCA's CCVI for heat vulnerability and the WUI to map wildfire vulnerability.
 - ii. More information on utilizing this data can be found in the Technical Data Interpretation Memo. CCVI heat vulnerability and WUI data are available in the provided geospatial database. To access CCVI heat vulnerability data online, visit [CIRCA's website](#). WUI data is also available online for download, provided by [SILVIS Lab](#).
- c. Coastal communities can consider adding hurricane inundation or other relevant coastal zone maps.
 - iii. Information on coastal hazard datasets can be found in the Technical Data Interpretation Memo. Relevant datasets may include, but are not limited to:
 - [NOAA National Hurricane Center \(NHC\) Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes \(SLOSH\)](#)
 - [IBTrACS](#)
 - [Hazus](#)
 - [CCVI Flood Vulnerability](#)
 - [Storm Surge and SLR](#)
 - [SLR MHW and AMM](#)
- d. Web map viewers for all hazards include, but are not limited to: WestCOG Regional Map Viewer, CIRCA Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge Viewer, CIRCA CCVI Heat and Flood Viewers, FEMA NFHL Viewer, WUI, NOAA NHC SLOSH Storm Surge Risk Maps.

Hazard Vulnerability and Planning Considerations

Specific Requirements: § 8-23 (e) (2) (D) (i); § 8-23 (e) (2) (K); § 8-23 (e) (2) (M); § 8-23 (e) (2) (M) (iv)

Section Considerations: This section describes the results of the Vulnerability Assessment, potential impacts, and the related factors the municipality considered when developing the POCD. In other words, this section answers the question: How susceptible is my municipality to damage from natural hazards and climate change? What are the past and potential consequences? Which of these results/impacts are we considering in our land use and development?

- **Applicability:** Continue to be aware that the impacts and planning considerations provided in the chapter are a starting point for local planning; the template is not comprehensive. For example, the template identifies lack of flood insurance/unanticipated repair costs as vulnerabilities to consider in several regional descriptions; however, lack of flood insurance is a widespread issue and may be relevant to your community, even if the template does not document it.
- **Planning alignment:** This section is a great opportunity to align with your municipality's HMP or WestCOG's Multi-Jurisdictional HMP. Consider whether you are using different hazard and vulnerability data for your HMP and the POCD. If so, consider identifying that in your POCD and explaining the decision.

Instructions:

1. Review the climate hazard impact description; existing language within the document may be adequate, but adjust or expand it as needed to describe your community's vulnerabilities and expected impacts. If additions are needed, focus on issues related to community safety and planning.
2. Select potential impacts and planning considerations as appropriate based on your municipality, and delete the irrelevant information
 - a. Example: for Greenwich, keep Coastal-Moderate and delete the other categories.
 - b. Edit/add to the list any other local public safety, health, and welfare impacts to confirm accuracy and completeness.

Resilience Vision

Specific Requirements: § 8-23 (e) (2) (C); § 8-23 (e) (2) (D) (ii); § 8-23 (e) (2) (D) (iii); § 8-23 (e) (2) (G)

Section Considerations: This section describes the desired outcome(s) of incorporating resilience into your municipality's overall aspirations for land use, development, economic growth, and a high quality of life. It should be a forward-looking description of what your municipality is trying to achieve. The template also includes a table to acknowledge the alignment between the POCD Climate Resilience Chapter and other local planning documents.

- **Vision Statement:** The resilience vision statement can be framed as a specific stand-alone statement or set of principles. Alternatively, your POCD can discuss how resilience is incorporated into your municipality's overall vision, including at the start of the POCD.
- **Plan Alignment:** The list of plans included in the Model Chapter (Capital Improvement Plan, Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan, Floodplain Management Plan, etc.) is included in the template because they are the ones itemized in PA 25-33 for consideration. If a community does not have a Capital Improvement Plan, address alignment with your Long-Range Transportation Plan. Communities should consider their main relevant planning documents, but they are not limited to the list in the model chapter.

Instructions:

1. Add your municipalities' comprehensive vision statement and/or relevant guiding principle(s) within the text. Where possible, climate adaptation and resilience should be incorporated into the vision statement.
2. Review Table 2 Planning Alignment:
 - a. Consider if any major local plans are missing from this table and should be added.
 - b. Update any statement that does not accurately describe how your municipality's POCD aligns with other local plans.
 - c. Add specific examples of where the resilience strategies identified in your POCD are included in/reflective of other documents.

Resilience Goals

Specific Requirements: § 8-23 (e) (2) (C); § 8-23 (e) (2) (D) (ii)

Section Considerations: This section describes how resilience is incorporated into your municipality's overall goals. These goals should answer the question: "What is the purpose of our municipality's resilience strategies?" The Model Chapter includes space for additional considerations for coastal communities and prompts the user to incorporate these goals into the POCD requirements and objectives. PA 25-33

encourages municipalities to consider resilience for people, the economy, assets/the built environment, agricultural areas, and the natural environment.

- **Level of Detail:** The Model Chapter provides goals that have a level of detail similar to the level of detail in the Objectives and Strategies sections of POCDs. Choose whether the Resilience Goals provided in the Model Chapter work best for your municipality's POCD as *goals*, *objectives*, or *strategies*.

Instructions:

1. Review the model goals. Select, modify, and supplement as appropriate based on the community's risk profile and resilience vision.
2. For coastal communities, add goals relevant to coastal hazards and ecosystems.
3. Consider opportunities to incorporate and align these resilience goals with other POCD Objectives and Strategies.
4. Delete any irrelevant information.

Resilience Strategies and Actions

Specific Requirements: § 8-23 (e) (2) (D) (ii); § 8-23 (e) (2) (E); § 8-23 (e) (2) (D) (iii); § 8-23 (e) (2) (G); § 8-23 (e) (2) (M) (iv); § 8-23 (e) (2) (L); § 8-23 (e) (3) (f) (8); § 8-23 (e) (3) (f) (9); § 8-23 (e) (3) (f) (10); § 8-23 (e) (3) (A)

Section Considerations: This section describes how the municipality will achieve its resilience goals and vision. It should answer the question: "What is the municipality doing to become more resilient to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change?" PA 25-33 asks municipalities to use hazard and vulnerability data, consider critical infrastructure and synergies with sustainability (e.g., reducing car/truck travel), and apply land-use strategies and design standards to mitigate natural-hazard and climate-change risks. The template includes draft text for Community Rating System participation, land-use strategies, design standards, and natural-resource and nature-based approaches.

- **Level of Detail:** The level of detail about Resilience Strategies in the Model Chapter could be similar to the level of detail within your POCD's Objectives, Strategies, or Actions. Choose whether the options in the Model Chapter work best for your POCD as *objectives*, *strategies*, or *actions*.
- **Resiliency Improvement Districts:** PA 25-33 allows municipalities to establish Resiliency Improvement Districts (RIDs); RIDs "may" be included in the POCD. A RID is a special taxing district that assigns the costs of infrastructure and projects to property owners who benefit, thereby increasing their property values. It is a financing mechanism for implementing resilience projects. One prerequisite for creating an RID is to include it in the POCD.
- **Transfer of Development Rights:** PA 25-33 also allows municipalities to describe a program for the transfer of development rights (sometimes also referred to as "credits"). Transfer of development rights is a market-based, regulatory tool for directing growth toward and away from designated areas so that at-risk, sensitive, or protective areas remain free from development while safer, desirable locations are developed. POCDs can establish "sending" and "receiving" sites, meaning the areas that will be protected/not developed and those that will be developed, respectively. The University of Connecticut has published a [Transfer of Development Rights Fact Sheet](#), and an example of how this tool was used to preserve farmland in Watertown, CT is available on the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments' [Sustainability Spotlight webpage](#).
- **Resources for Development:** Where the POCD recommends increases in development, especially in residential or mixed-use density, consider whether the area has adequate water, sewer, transportation, evacuation access, and stormwater capacity to support the proposed expansion, in addition to considering the area's exposure to flood, heat, wildfire, and/or coastal hazards.

- **Stormwater Best Practices:** The [Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual \(2024\)](#) from DEEP recommends low-impact development site planning and design as a fundamental component of any stormwater management plan. As explained in the Manual, low impact development “addresses the root causes of both stormwater quality and quantity problems by helping to preserve pre-development site hydrology and pollutant loads... [low impact development and other] preventative measures can reduce the size and scope of structural stormwater Best Management Practices.”

Instructions:

1. Review the opening text of the section. Edit and/or expand this text to describe your community’s approach to managing natural hazards and climate change risks.
2. Add or link to your community’s map of land use and vulnerability assessment results.
3. List and describe the actions (programs, policies, projects, studies, or initiatives, etc.) that your municipality is taking to manage natural hazard and climate change risks. Municipalities can use the format and categories provided (e.g., Community Rating System Participation, Desirable Land Use Strategies) or develop a unique organization.
 - a. Review the template, select applicable strategies from the draft text, and delete any irrelevant information.
 - b. Add locally specific actions and regulatory references. Consider whether any of these strategies and actions should also be included as POCD objectives.
4. Note any inconsistencies in policy or action where the community has made a decision that may contradict another planning document or increase natural hazard risks or impacts, and describe why the current approach—rather than increased mitigation or adaptation—is acceptable.